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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Port Information: Danzig

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED
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DATE (OF INFO.)

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THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CIA FOR IAC DISSEMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3 c OF NSCID #7 (DIO, 6ND No 350-54).

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2. Course Taken During Approach the subject vessel took a course of about 240 degrees true, toward Gdynia, after passing the southeast tip of Hela. After approaching the coast, the ship was turned southeast to follow down the coast to the river leading to Danzig. German approach chart No D-51 was used; however, an inset to this chart indicated that the proper entry chart was No 390, which the vessel did not hold. The informant assumed that a direct course from the southeast tip of Hela to the river entrance to Danzig would have taken the ship through waters not yet cleared of World War II German Mines. At 1800 on 30 Sep 54 the ship arrived at the river entrance and took aboard a pilot at the Lotsen (pilot) point, indicated on the chart. This point is approximately two miles outside the mouth of the river. An armed Polish soldier escorted the pilot to the ship, but did not come aboard. No naval vessels were encountered in the channel. The only vessels passed were old ferries (freshly painted). A lack of activity in the waterfront area and in the houses seen from the river was noted.

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3. Security Measures at Danzig The subject vessel was moored at 1900 at point A on annotated chart of Baltic Sea, Free State of Danzig, Neufahrwasser and Danzig, and a sentry was immediately placed at the foot of the gangway. Twenty-one Polish soldiers and a Polish Army Captain came aboard and thoroughly searched the vessel. Everyone in the search party remained strictly aloof and refused even to accept cigarettes. The searchers spoke only when prying into the crewmen's personal belongings; such queries were uttered as "what you got here?" and the like. The informant was of the opinion that they felt this would allow them to "dig more thoroughly" and still remain within the borders of diplomacy.

NAVY review

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4. Description of Berth Informant furnished a sketch of the dock area (point A referred to in paragraph 3), where his vessel was berthed. Lines were tied from the storage tanks directly into the ship's tanks. These storage tanks were described as "smaller than standard-sized US storage tanks". The entire area surrounding the storage tanks was enclosed by a 20-foot high, iron, picket fence. A Polish soldier, armed with a machine gun was stationed at the MP shack. Only the Captain was allowed to go ashore (with an armed escort), and he only for the purpose of sounding the tanks in order to check the amount of benzol being pumped to the ship.

5. Naval Observations A Polish Naval Base was observed at point B. About six minesweepers (believed to have been former German), several destroyer or corvette types, and three or four wooden "speed boats" were observed there. The enlisted Naval uniforms were described as "just like the German Navy uniforms of World War II."

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6.

7. General Information All buildings and construction observed along the river were described as "still broken down". No new construction was seen anywhere. No aircraft were observed at Danzig.

8. Economic Information One of the vessel's agents at Danzig brought the informant several picture postcards. When the informant asked if he could pay for them, the agent refused; however, he stated that he would accept some cigarettes. He suggested two packages; however, the informant gave him five. The agent then told the informant that an apartment, consisting of bedroom, dayroom, and kitchen could be rented for a month for two packages of US cigarettes.

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